

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A transgenic plant comprising a transgene encoding a heterologous gene of interest operatively associated with a *SHORT-ROOT* promoter, said promoter consisting essentially of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 and functioning to promote stele-specific expression in roots and embryos of a plant, so that the gene of interest is expressed in a tissue-specific manner in roots or embryos.

23. (previously presented) The transgenic plant of Claim 22, in which the gene of interest encodes a gene product that confers herbicide, salt, pathogen, or insect resistance.

24. (currently amended) A transgenic plant comprising a transgene encoding a heterologous gene of interest operatively associated with a *SHORT-ROOT* promoter, said promoter consisting essentially of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 and functioning to promote stele-specific expression in shoots of a plant, so that the gene of interest is expressed in shoots.

25. (original) The transgenic plant of Claim 23, in which the gene of interest encodes a gene product that increases starch, lignan or cellulose biosynthesis.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The plant of Claim 22 25, wherein said gene of interest is a *SHORT-ROOT* gene which is less susceptible to lodging than a wild type plant.

28-30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule functions to promote stele-specific expression in roots and shoots of a plant.

32-33. (canceled)